



## News Release

For Immediate Release

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### **Region to receive \$1.5 million aimed at creating new jobs in emerging industries, shortage occupations**

PORTAGE, Ind. (June 8, 2006) – Northwest Indiana will be awarded a grant from the state for \$1,511,580 to help create new jobs in the region’s manufacturing, health care and logistics industries, Ron Stiver, commissioner of the Indiana Department of Workforce Development announced today.

The grant is part of the Daniels administration’s Strategic Skills Initiative, a one-year old workforce development program begun last year.

“On behalf of Governor Mitch Daniels, we are excited to award this grant to help launch several important new projects that address key occupational and workforce issues in the region,” Stiver said. “As the governor has said, northwest Indiana must prosper economically if the entire state is to succeed. This grant is part of our efforts to foster growth in several industries that are critical to the region’s economic success.”

“Regional leaders have identified the manufacturing, healthcare and logistics industries as needing special attention and having potential for growth in the months and years ahead,” Stiver said. “The projects we are funding will help the region prepare Hoosiers for good paying jobs in these areas and in the long term, create new jobs.”

The grant will fund nine programs proposed by regional leaders:

- *Web-based Veterans Placement* -- Web-based technology will be used to assist returning veterans from around the country match skills they have learned in the military in areas that are in short supply in the region. Among the employers who have signed up for this program include US Steel, Mittal Steel, Northcoast Distributors, and others.
- *Next Generation Welding* – Capacity will be boosted at Ivy Tech Community College’s Valparaiso campus to create an additional 118 welders. The grant will be used to fund entry, intermediate, and advanced welding training through Ivy Tech’s new fast-track program.

- *Supervisory and Management Training for Manufacturing and Transportation industries* – Purdue University at Calumet will deliver supervisory and management training via its Distance Education & Extended Learning Center. The focus will be on the transportation, distribution and logistics (TDL) and manufacturing industries. Sixty-six Hoosiers will receive training under this initiative, with sixty earning certificates of completion and placed or promoted in shortage occupations.
- *Diesel Mechanic Training* – Another area of the grant will expand enrollment at the Diesel Mechanic Training School. The Porter County Career and Technical Education center will offer evening classes for adults. Eighteen new students will enter the program; four employers have committed to employing those that successfully complete the training.
- *Radio Frequency Identification Training* – Training will prepare individuals to master the technology in inventory management systems. Thirty candidates will be trained in radio frequency identification and logistics skills through a 10-week fast track program at Ivy Tech Community College.
- *Registered Nurses* – To address the shortage of nursing faculty and students, the grant will support two separate projects – one at Purdue University Calumet and the other at Purdue University North Central. Purdue University Calumet will hire two new faculty members which will boost enrollment by 50 spots. Purdue University North Central will hire three new faculty members which will add 20 nursing spots annually.
- *21<sup>st</sup> Century Logistics Training* – A new pilot program in logistics training will be established to help develop the region's logistics industry. The new program will consist of a 10-week formal program for 33 students, who will receive certificates, college credit, and employment.
- *Manufacturing Camp* -- To boost interest in manufacturing careers, officials from the Portage YMCA, Ivy Tech Community College and the Porter County Career Center have developed a one-week manufacturing camp for 8<sup>th</sup> graders. The camp consists of customized curriculum, plant tours, meetings with manufacturers, and tours of advanced laboratories. Forty-five eighth graders will participate.

Stiver praised the collaborative nature of the projects, noting that representatives from the public and private sector, labor and industry, higher education, and workforce and economic development officials all worked together to develop this proposal.

The state's Strategic Skills Initiative seeks to identify critical occupational and skill shortages and their causes throughout the state, and then fund grants to local consortia to develop solutions that address the shortages. Last year, a grant of \$311,122 was awarded to the region for research and to identify the occupations, industries and skills projected

to be in short supply. Today's grant provides the region with funds to build on that research through specific projects which address those shortages.

The grant has been awarded to the new regional workforce board on behalf of a consortium of workforce and economic development officials from the state's economic growth Region 1. The region includes Jasper, Lake, La Porte, Newton, Porter, Pulaski and Starke counties.

The Department of Workforce Development is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies to create new jobs and improve employee skills. The agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, partners with Indiana's 26 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs and closures and operates a statewide job placement service.

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Attachment: summary of regional grant award

# Indiana Department of Workforce Development

## Strategic Skills Initiative

### *Economic Growth Region 1*



Mitch Daniels, Governor  
Ron Stiver, Commissioner  
June 2006

#### About SSI

Governor Daniels' \$23 million Strategic Skills (SSI) Initiative aims to identify and alleviate job and skill shortages. The program will be carried out in Indiana's 11 economic regions through an ongoing process of identifying future shortages, determining the cause of those shortages, and developing solutions. Ultimately SSI will create jobs and increase personal income for Hoosiers.

#### About Region 1

- Population (July 2005)  
**844,629**
  - Labor Force (March 2006)  
**407,030**
  - Unemployment (March 2006)  
**6.3%**
  - Per Capita Income  
**\$28,823 in 2004**
- Source: [www.hoosierdata.in.gov](http://www.hoosierdata.in.gov)

#### Counties in Region

- Lake
- Newton
- Porter
- Jasper
- La Porte
- Starke
- Pulaski



INDIANA  
**WORKFORCE**  
DEVELOPMENT

#### Economic Growth Region 1

**Economic Growth Region 1** is comprised of seven counties. The SSI research & identification allocation awarded to Region 1 in September 2005 was \$311,122. The SSI solutions allocation awarded in June 2006 is \$1,511,580. Methods used to define shortages, causes and develop solutions included: web based workshops; research; surveys; focus groups; work sessions with employers, youth, education & training providers, economic developers and workforce intermediaries.

Key Occupational Shortages	Projection 2005-2007
Registered Nurses	250
Welders, Cutters, Solderers and Brazers	207
Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, except Technical and Scientific Products	200
Pharmacists	98
Pharmacist Technicians	63

#### Emerging Industries / Occupations

##### Biotech and Life Science Industries

Emerging technologies from life science sector: bioinformatics, nanotechnology, and renewable energies are examples.

#### Root Causes

##### Talent and Pipeline Issues

##### Education and Training Capacity

##### Talent Leakage and Brain Drain

##### Employer Recruitment and Retention Practices

##### Wage Rates and Benefits

##### Other

- People lack confidence in industry as good place to build a career.
- Stress and burnout due to inadequate staffing for the workload.
- Demographic changes (aging workforce, increasing diversity, gender imbalance).

Identified Solutions →

## Identified Solutions

1.

Solution: <i><b>Veteran Talent Gains</b></i>	Dollars Allotted: <i><b>\$110,006</b></i>
<p>Solution Description:</p> <p>Web based technology will be utilized to assist returning veterans in finding high wage jobs. Veterans from around the country will have access to regional opportunities and secure work in high demand occupations within the region through virtual access to regional job postings via new technologies. This strategy will help Region 1 access the in demand technical skills of veterans and fill regional skills shortage occupations.</p>	<p>Outcomes Proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 35 veterans placed in shortage occupations</li> </ul>

2.

Solution: <i><b>Radio Frequency Identification Training</b></i>	Dollars Allotted: <i><b>\$69,486</b></i>
<p>Solution Description:</p> <p>Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) is a skill set desired within emerging occupations and advanced manufacturing settings. This innovative RFID training will prepare individuals for skilled occupations within the region including sophisticated inventory management and similar high-tech systems. Employers in the region will hire trainees to fill existing skill shortages.</p>	<p>Outcomes Proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 34 Hoosiers trained</li> <li>• 30 completing solution</li> <li>• 30 certifications in skills important to manufacturing, transportation, distribution and logistics</li> </ul>

3.

Solution: <i><b>Next Generation Welding</b></i>	Dollars Allotted: <i><b>\$179,857</b></i>
<p>Solution Description:</p> <p>Ivy Tech Community College (Valparaiso campus) will increase capacity to train 118 new welders. With a new accelerated fast-track training program, the region will gain entry, intermediate, and advanced welding skills. Trainees will have the foundation needed to secure advanced certifications by American Welding Society and American Society of Mechanical Engineers. This training and increased capacity will fill shortage occupations and increase skills within the region.</p>	<p>Outcomes Proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 118 Hoosiers trained</li> <li>• 100 completing solution</li> <li>• 96 Career Development Certificates (9 credit hours)</li> <li>• 75 placed or promoted in shortage occupations</li> </ul>

### Identified Solutions

4.

Solution: <i>Diesel Mechanic Training</i>	Dollars Allotted: <i>\$70,844</i>
<p>Solution Description:</p> <p>The Diesel Mechanic School, in partnership with Porter County Career and Technical Education Center, will increase capacity and expanding enrollments. To accommodate incumbent workers, evening classes will also be offered for adults. The solution will result in skilled trainees securing employment within the region.</p>	<p>Outcomes Proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 18 Hoosiers trained &amp; 25 employers committed to hiring graduates</li> </ul>

5.

Solution: <i>Supervisor and Management Training for Manufacturing</i>	Dollars Allotted: <i>\$83,714</i>
<p>Solution Description:</p> <p>Virtual distance learning tools will be utilized to increase the number of qualified line supervisors in the region. Training will be delivered and developed by Purdue Calumet. The curriculum will focus on manufacturing, transportation, distribution and logistics.</p>	<p>Outcomes Proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 66 Hoosiers trained</li> <li>• 60 completing solution</li> <li>• 60 certificates of completion by Purdue University Calumet</li> <li>• 60 placed or promoted in shortage occupations</li> </ul>

6.

Solution: <i>Registered Nurses (Calumet)</i>	Dollars Allotted: <i>\$351,304</i>
<p>Solution Description:</p> <p>Purdue University Calumet will hire two new faculty members. This increased capacity will boost enrollment by 50. All will secure employment upon completion. This solution addresses the primary occupational shortage of the region and the primary root causes.</p>	<p>Outcomes Proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 50 Hoosiers trained</li> <li>• 50 completing solution</li> <li>• 20 Registered Nurses</li> <li>• 20 placed or promoted in shortage occupations</li> </ul>

7.

Solution: <i>Registered Nurses (North Central)</i>	Dollars Allotted: <i>\$443,670</i>
<p>Solution Description:</p> <p>Purdue University North Central will hire three new faculty members. This increased capacity will boost enrollment by 20. All are expected to secure employment upon completion. This solution addresses the primary occupational shortage of the region and primary root causes.</p>	<p>Outcomes Proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 40 Hoosiers trained</li> <li>• 40 placed or promoted in shortage occupations</li> </ul>

## Identified Solutions

8.

Solution: <i>21st Century Logistics Training</i>	Dollars Allotted: <i>\$161,594</i>
<p>Solution Description:</p> <p>With a vision of becoming a leader in logistics, Region 1 will pilot 21st Century Logistics Training. The accelerated 10 week program consists of supply chain management and transportation systems. Students completing the training receive certificates, college credit and employment.</p>	<p>Outcomes Proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 33 Hoosiers trained</li> <li>• 30 completing Solution</li> <li>• 30 Career Development Certificates</li> <li>• 30 placed or promoted in shortage occupations</li> </ul>

9.

Solution: <i>Manufacturing Camp</i>	Dollars Allotted: <i>\$41,105</i>
<p>Solution Description:</p> <p>To heighten interest in manufacturing careers, officials from the Portage YMCA, Ivy Tech Community College and Porter County Career Center developed a manufacturing camp for 8th graders. The 1 week-long camp consists of customized curriculum, plant tours, meetings with manufacturers and tours of advanced laboratories. This initiative will increase awareness of opportunities within region and manufacturing industry.</p>	<p>Outcomes Proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 45 Hoosier youth enrolled</li> </ul>

*Solution Totals**\$1,511,580**404 Hoosiers trained**216 Certifications or degrees**260 in shortage occupations*